

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A system for mobile radio communication, including:

a network having at least one ~~or more~~ radio base ~~stations~~ station and a central station;

a vehicle mounted, user-operated on-board radio station having a ~~relatively long~~ range sufficient for communication with the network, and comprising circuitry for full duplex audio and data for communication with other stations; and

a user-operated portable radio station having a ~~relatively short~~ shorter range than the vehicle mounted, on-board radio station, for communication with other stations;

wherein the vehicle mounted, user-operated on-board radio station and the user-operated portable radio station are capable of communicating with the network independently of each other, and

wherein the on-board station ~~receives~~ further comprises programming enabling receiving messages from the portable station over a half duplex channel when the on-board station is within range of the network but the portable station is out of range of the network, ~~stores~~ storing the messages and ~~forwards~~ forwarding the messages to the network over a different radio channel.

2. (original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the on-board station receives and forwards emergency messages from the portable station to the central station.

3. (previously presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein the portable station and the on-board station communicate short data messages or voice messages in either direction over a half-duplex radio channel.

4. (original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the portable and on-board stations each have a duplex mode for communication with the network by voice or data calls and a half-duplex mode for communication between each other by short messages.

5. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein ~~the on-board station is carried by a vehicle and the~~ portable station is carried by an individual associated with the vehicle.

6. (currently amended) A method of communication in a mobile radio system, including:

determining in a user-operated portable radio station that network coverage is not available at the portable station;

transmitting a message from the portable station over a half-duplex channel to a user-operated, vehicle mounted on-board radio station at which network coverage is available, said on-board radio station comprising circuitry for full duplex audio and data communication with other stations, and being capable of communicating with the network independently of the user-operated portable station; and

forwarding the message from the on-board radio station to a central station in the system.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the on-board station receives messages from the portable station on one channel and transmits the messages on a different channel.

8. (original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the message is an emergency message.

9. (currently amended) A method of communication in a mobile radio network, including:

opening a half duplex radio channel between a user-operated portable station at which network coverage is not

available and a user-operated, vehicle mounted on-board station at which network coverage is available, said on-board station comprising circuitry for full duplex audio and data communication with other stations and being capable of communicating with the network independently of the user-operated portable station;

transmitting a message from the portable station to the on-board station over the half duplex channel;

receiving and storing the message at the on-board station;

determining that the message is addressed to a central radio station in the network;

opening further radio channel between the on-board station and the central station; and

forwarding the message from the on-board station to the central station through the network.

Claim 10 (canceled).